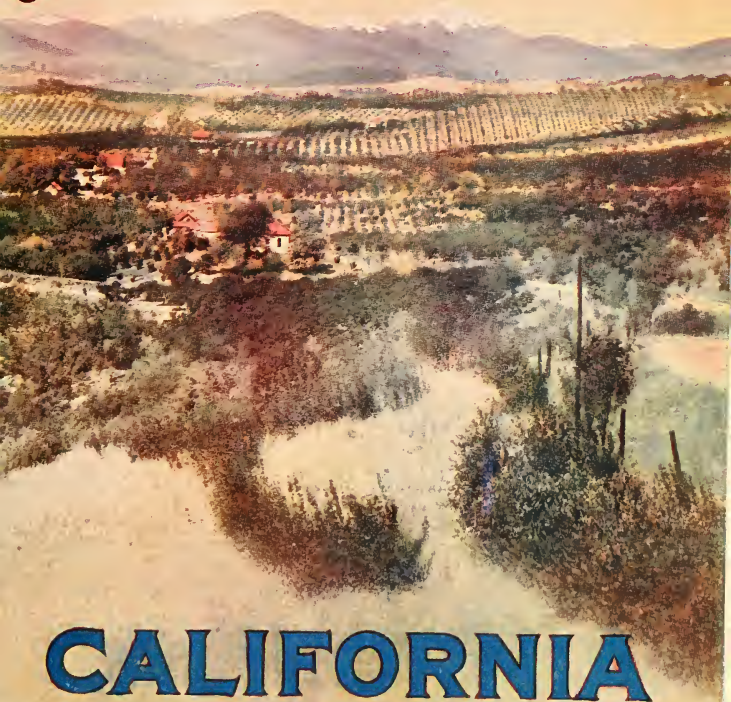


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# PLACER COUNTY



## CALIFORNIA



MAP OF

# PLACER COUNTY,

## CALIFORNIA

# PLACER COUNTY CALIFORNIA

A CONTINENT WITHIN A COUNTY



ISSUED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
PLACER COUNTY

COMPILED BY A COMMITTEE SELECTED BY THE  
AUBURN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Printed by  
FRANK L. SANDERS  
Lincoln, California

## Foreword

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**T**HIS BOOKLET was printed by direction and authority of the Board of Supervisors of Placer County, and compiled by a committee selected by the Auburn Chamber of Commerce. Its purpose is to furnish impartial and reliable information to those who may wish to be informed about the location, climate, soil, water supply, transportation facilities, population, industries, production, natural resources and opportunities of Placer County.

Although Placer County is the banner deciduous fruit county of the State, it still contains a great deal of unimproved land well adapted to the growing of all kinds of fruit, grain and alfalfa; just as good land as that now under cultivation and offers just as good an opportunity for the making of thousands of happy and prosperous homes, as was the opportunity for the thousands we already have.

To the investor, we offer large tracts of unimproved land awaiting subdivision and development; to the fruit grower and farmer, we offer a variety of soil and climate capable of producing almost every tree and plant produced by Mother Earth; to the stockman, we offer the mountain range in summer and the warm sheltered foothills in winter; to the miner we offer miles of unexplored ancient river channels, rich with placer gold, and hundreds of undeveloped gold bearing quartz ledges from which in ages past, our streams and canyons drew their flow of river gold, that gave to this county the name of "Placer." To the man who wishes to retire from active life, we offer a situation free from the cold blizzards of the North and the violent storms of other sections; a climate and scenery second to none; a broad minded and intelligent civilization, and every form of modern convenience within his reach, in fact, a place where any man can sit beneath and enjoy "his own vine and fig tree."

Very truly yours,

JOHN A. LIVINGSTON,  
RAGLAN TUTTLE,  
ROBERT JONES,

Committee on Printing.

7-11-16

# PLACER COUNTY

Lies between the latitude of 38 degrees 40 minutes and 39 degrees 30 minutes North, about the same as the State of Delaware and Southern Italy. Its direction is northeast and southwest. It is about 100 miles long and of varying widths, from 10 to 30 miles, the course and distance being defined by the course of the rivers which mark its boundaries. It extends from about 8 miles from the Sacramento river over the summit of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, to the Nevada State line. Just above Auburn, between the Bear and American rivers, the county is very narrow, being about 8 miles across. Above Auburn it widens out into two divides, lying between the Bear river and the Middle Fork of the American river. These are known as the Dutch Flat or Railroad Divide, and the Forest Hill Divide. The southwestern portion is more regular in shape than the part just described. This section contains the foothill and level agricultural lands, the southwest two-thirds being on the plains proper, and the southeast one-third being the foothill and fruit district.

Area 1,395 square miles.

Population 1910, 18,237.

Population per square mile, 13.1.

Auburn, County Seat, population 1910, 2,376.

## Temperature.

Highest-105

(1912)

Lowest-22

Normal Rainfall 35 inches.

Of the area, 810 square miles are mountainous, 450 foothills, and the remainder valleys. The entire extent faces toward the west, extending from an altitude of some 40 feet on the plains in the western portion, to over 7,000 feet at its eastern boundary line, embracing nearly every variety of climate known in the State. At the eastern boundary separating it from the State of Nevada, is Lake Tahoe, one of the most picturesque lakes in America. The topography of Placer County, is as irregular as its shape. Imagine the whole Atlantic coast from Labrador to Tallahassee, incorporated into one county, and one will have a fair idea of what may be found in Placer, exaggerated as to size, but not as to the great variety of climate, elevation, soils and resources. As to the latter, the whole Atlantic seaboard can hardly equal the endless variety to be found within the borders of this county, which rivals Florida in the quality of its oranges, excels New Jersey in peaches, equals the



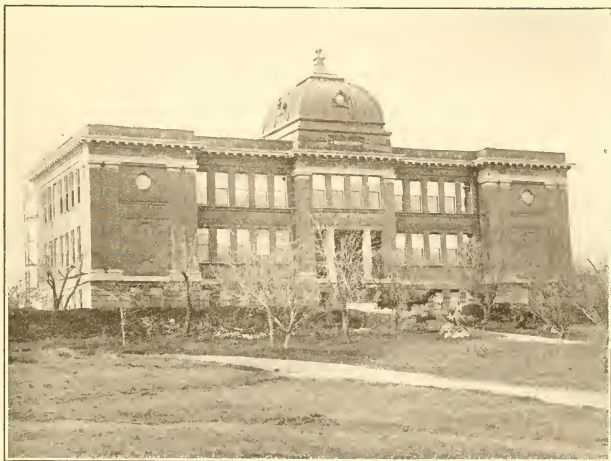
**Placer County Court House, Auburn, Cal.**

New England states in its granite quarries, and compares favorably with Maine in the quality of its lumber.

From an elevation of about 2500 feet up to the summit of the mountains snow falls in the winter, light at the lower edge of the line, and increasing in depth as it ascends the Sierra. Here is a strip of territory from the snow line up to an elevation of 3,000 feet, particularly adapted to the apple, pear, and a great variety of vegetables. This county, for years has produced, annually, from one-third to one-fourth of all the deciduous fruits shipped to Eastern and foreign markets, for consumption in the fresh state, out of the entire state of California. Its shipments last year, 1912, were 2,900 carloads of 24,000 pounds each, being about the average of the last five years. These consisted in the order named as to quantities, of peaches, plums, pears, cherries, grapes, apricots, etc. In addition, besides strawberries, blackberries, Loganberries, raspberries, etc., vast quantities of these fruits were shipped by express to nearer markets.

### **WESTERN PLACER**

The western or valley portion of the County, lies, as we may say, on the floor of the great Sacramento Valley of which it is a part. The land is practically level, broken by an occasional willow-



**Placer County High School, Auburn, Cal.**

fringed creek flowing toward the Sacramento river. The soil is of the same alluvial composition as the rest of the valley, and is well adapted to the growing of all kinds of grain, alfalfa, fruit and vegetables.

Heretofore most of this land has been held in large tracts ranging from one to ten thousand acres, the average farm being about 1200 acres, and farmed mostly to grain, with occasional large stretches used as pasture. The grain is sown in the fall and early winter, and the abundant rainfall of the winter and spring months always insures a good crop, without irrigation, which is harvested in the early summer months, when combined harvesters, drawn by traction engines, or strings of from twenty-four to thirty-six mules, or horses, are a common sight.

A great many of these large farms that are owned by old time settlers, are being subdivided into smaller tracts, and sold to new settlers, at very reasonable prices. For instance, good valley land, the same as is being sold in other parts of the state for from \$100 to \$250 per acre, can be bought in Western Placer at from \$50 to \$75 per acre, but it is going fast and will not last long at these prices.

Water for domestic use can be easily secured from bored wells, at a depth of from 20 to 30 feet, while a well bored to a depth of





**Icing Station at Roseville, Placer County**

from 100 to 150 feet will furnish an abundant supply for irrigation. Heretofore, in the old days of wheat and mules, irrigation was very little practiced, but with the advent of alfalfa, hops and dairying, irrigation is a necessity, consequently the bored well, the gasoline, or electric pump are coming into general use.

As will be seen by looking at the map on inside cover page the main line of the Southern Pacific traverses the full length of the county, and the Shasta Route traverses the Western part. The principal towns in this section, are Roseville, Lincoln and Sheridan, and the new State Highway, now under course of construction, will pass through all of these towns.

## **ROSEVILLE**

So named because of the "Rose", the most beautiful of all flowers, which grows in this locality with surprising ease, attaining a size and beauty rarely known elsewhere, was one of the many sleeping villages of the Sacramento valley, up to and including a portion of the year 1906, and was called and spoken of as the "Junction" of the Northern and Eastern routes of the Southern Pacific. Today it is one of the great railroad centers of the West. To show the wonderful growth of Roseville, we give some figures obtained from the Assessment Book of 1912. The assessed valuation



for the year 1912 was \$895,550, as against one fourth of this amount in the year 1905. The population was then 250, today it is over 3000. The town at that time, had one grocery store, in connection with which was the postoffice, a livery stable and a butcher shop. In the year 1906 came a change. The Southern Pacific realized the many advantages of Roseville as a terminal and commenced active operations. As a result of these, Roseville has machine shops capable of turning out everything needed in the manufacture of freight cars, with the exception of the largest castings, and these are done in Sacramento, only 18 miles away. About 400 men are constantly employed in the construction of these cars, besides a great number of others who are employed in and around the round-houses, of which there are two, each one capable of housing 32 engines at one time.

Roseville is on the main trunk of the new State Highway, for which an appropriation of \$18,000,000 was made by the State of California.

This now runs North from Sacramento through Roseville, but arrangements will soon be made for a lateral East to Auburn, the County seat.

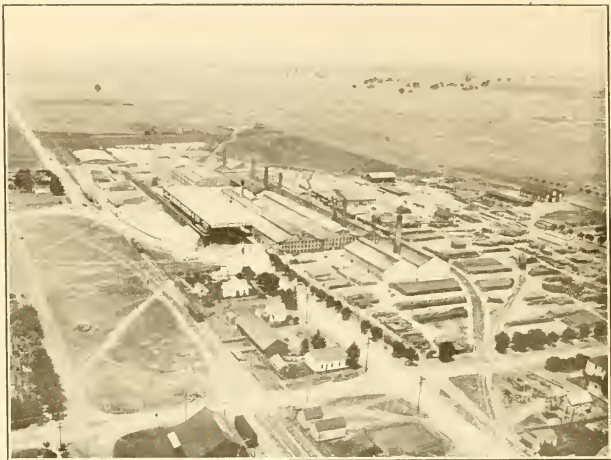
A \$10,000 Carnegie library was finished last year, and is being stocked with the latest reading matter of all kinds.

The Pacific Fruit Express has located in Roseville one of the largest pre-cooling plants in the United States. Many carloads of fruit are sent here to be pre-cooled, preparatory to their trip east, from all parts of the Sacramento valley.

One of the largest institutions in the county is the Placer County Winery Company, located at Roseville. The stock of this plant is held almost exclusively by local grape growers, and assures them, under contract, a most substantial price for their grapes, the expenditure for grapes, for the year 1911 alone amounting to over \$42,000. This plant crushes annually, at vintage time, from 4,000 to 5,000 tons of grapes of the finest varieties obtainable, all grown in the immediate vicinity of the winery. Several thousand acres are planted to wine and table grapes, and a vineyard in full bearing will produce from \$100 to \$150 per acre.

Land can be purchased at prices ranging from \$30 to \$75 per acre, and in any quantity desired. On such lands, a man engaged in diversified farming, realized \$2,680, from hay, grain and poultry, grown on 100 acres, during the year just ended. Another man sold \$4,400 worth of grain and hay cut from 90 acres, in one cutting, while the 40 acres adjoining, brought in an income of \$1,200 net from melons. After the melons were harvested, the land was sown to grain in the same year.

Peaches, almonds, plums, prunes, figs and other fruits do exceptionally well in this locality. Peaches produce from \$150 to \$350 per acre, according to the price obtained in the market. These trees begin



Birdseye View of Lincoln, Placer County

to bear in the fourth year, but the owner can make his acreage pay from the start by planting melons, potatoes, etc., between the trees. This can be done till the trees grow so large as to cover the ground. Almond growing is considered the best industry of its kind, as the land is especially adapted to almond culture. One acre of almond trees in full bearing will produce about two tons, which sell, at from \$250 to \$300 per ton. The Nonpareil variety is the best to plant, as these nuts bring the highest price. Plums and prunes do as well here as in any part of California. A plum grower, one-half mile from Roseville, produced \$400 per acre. These plums were sold crated at seventy-five cents per crate.

Fig growing can be made a profitable business, as one does not have to rely on the market for the disposal of the fresh fruit, but may sun-dry the entire crop of figs and dispose of them at a good figure. A young fig orchard near Roseville produced \$125 per acre last year which was realized on the sun-dried figs.

When it is considered that the figures quoted are from crops grown in this section, without irrigation, these figures would in many cases be doubled with irrigation. It has been demonstrated during the last year that water can be had in large quantities through pumping plants. The Whitney Estate Company, extensive orange growers, three miles north-east of Roseville, have recently developed



Storing the Harvest at Lincoln, Placer County

an artesian well, furnishing a 7-inch flow. The fact that artesian water may be had, together with the assurance of the South Yuba Ditch Company, that their system of reservoirs will enable them to furnish irrigating waters to this entire district, promises great activity in the near future.

## LINCOLN

Known as the "Clay City" is situated on the line of the Shasta Route of the S. P. R. R. nine miles north of Roseville and twenty-eight miles from Sacramento, is a thriving up-to-date town of 1500 inhabitants, with broad clean streets. Lincoln has a municipal water system, a complete sanitary sewage system, fine Grammar and High schools, an up-to-date public library, wide awake newspaper, three hotels, a bank, three churches and all lines of business are well represented.

At the present time the people of Lincoln and vicinity have taken steps to build a first-class cannery, which will be in operation by next season.

One of the finest and largest deposits of potter's clay on the Pacific Coast is at Lincoln. Here is located the great plant of Gladding, McBean & Co., the largest of its kind west of Chicago. Manufac-



**Portion of Placer Nurseries Near Lincoln, Placer County**

turers of all kinds of sewer and drain pipe, tiling, terra cotta, chimneys, lining partitions of every description, flower pots, pressed brick and the finest and most elaborate designs of architectural terra cotta. This company has all of the modern appliances for handling the raw material and the finished product. They employ several hundred men all the year round, which makes Lincoln one of the best markets for fruit, farm, or garden truck in the county. Not only are these various clay products manufactured at Lincoln, but the Lincoln Clay Products Co., which owns a large deposit of fine clay makes a specialty of shipping and supplying clay to other potters throughout the state.

There is also a deposit of the finest quality of glass sand here, as well as a deposit of low grade coal.

The country surrounding Lincoln is of the same general character as the valley portion of the county. Although a great deal of this land is well adapted to horticulture but very little is so used at present, it being mostly devoted to general farming, which, although it has not been painted in such glowing colors as some other lines of industry, has many good bank accounts to its credit. Here the farmer can have a rotation of crops, growing practically all the year round; his stock requires very little shelter and can range in the open pasture continuously. The cold blizzards

of winter and the violent storms of summer are unknown here; stock of all kinds do remarkably well and are exceptionally healthy. Hog raising is a very profitable branch of the stock business in this section, as well as turkeys and other poultry. In fact, this is a section where diversified farming of every description can be carried on both comfortably and profitably.

Nestled in the foothills of the Sierras, a short distance east of Lincoln are the Orangevale, Fruitvale, Gold Hill and Mt. Pleasant fruit districts. The Orangevale district has an exceptionally fine belt of deciduous fruit orchards, and here is located the great nursery of the Silva-Bergtholdt Co., one of the largest in the state.

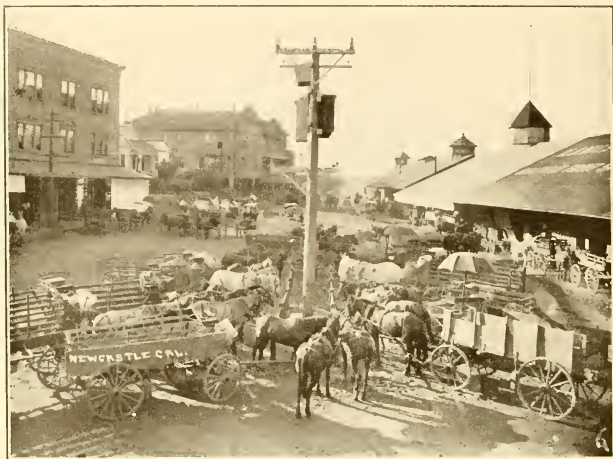
Gold Hill, once a famous mining district, is now famed for its fine orchards. Nestled along the south slope of a spur of the Sierra foothills is the Mt. Pleasant district. It contains not only many fine deciduous fruit orchards, but also one of the best citrus belts in the country, in fact, a citrus belt that will compare favorably with any in the state. Here oranges ripen as early as in any portion of the state, without any exception whatever, and the records of the last thirty years prove the district to be practically immune from danger by frost. At present there are only a few orange groves in this district, but considering the quality of the soil; the early ripening of the fruit; the advantage of the early market; the immunity from scale and insect pests, and the abundant supply of water for irrigation, together with an ideal climate, it would seem that this section is bound to become one of the best early orange growing sections in California.

## SHERIDAN

A town of some 200 people, is situated eight miles north of Lincoln, on the same railroad and the same State Highway.

Sheridan has a good general store, hotel, lumber yard, postoffice, grammar school and church. Up to a short time ago, Sheridan was a sleepy village, where the farmers from the surrounding country were wont to gather and discuss the "weather," crops and neighborhood gossip, but as in other parts of Western Placer, the large tracts of practically idle land adjoining the town, have changed to more progressive owners; subdivisions are being sold, homes built and orchards planted and Sheridan has had more activity in real estate during the past year than any town in Western Placer.

The land adjoining the town is well adapted to general farming, fruit growing, dairying, and poultry raising. The foothill section, a short distance east of Sheridan, contains some exceptionally fine fruit land, some portions of which are particularly well adapted to citrus culture. In this direction are the Goss tract, Clover Valley



Newcastle in Fruit Season

tract and the Washington tract; all new subdivisions being fast settled up, as well as the Wright electric farms on the west, where electric pumps are being installed.

Sheridan offers special inducements to the small investor with limited means, as well as opportunity to the man of wealth.

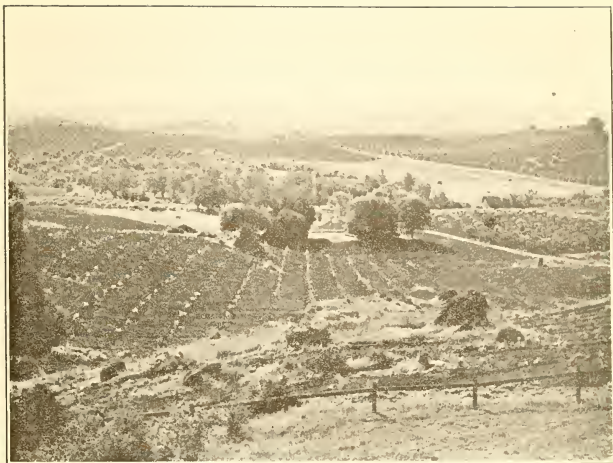
### THE FRUIT SECTION OF PLACER COUNTY

This section of Placer county, in which are situated the towns of Rocklin, Loomis, Penryn and Newcastle, and consisting of an area of 102 square miles, enjoys many advantages unequalled elsewhere.

Notwithstanding the comparative smallness of the district, and the fact that but a small part of it is set to orchard, or vineyard, it produces a very large proportion of the deciduous fruits shipped from the State of California, besides several hundred cars of ripe fruits and berries, and a rapidly increasing acreage of oranges and lemons.

Placer county fruits ripen early and are of a superior quality. The warm foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains, sloping to the west, with the decomposed granite soil, so particularly adapted for fruit, combine to make the fruit of this section superior to that grown elsewhere. Our plums, peaches, grapes, pears and other fruits have a fine flavor, and high sugar content.





View of the Penryn Fruit District

## PRINCIPAL FRUIT PRODUCTS

**PEACHES** have always held first place in this section, not only as regards acreage, but also in the amount of fruit raised and shipped. At present, the output is about 45 per cent of the total shipment of deciduous fruit.

Preference is given to the Triumph, Elberta, Crawford, Lovell, Levi and Phillips clings. Prices for green fruit vary from 40 to 85 cents per box, at point of shipment, while clings for canning command from \$30 to \$65 per ton.

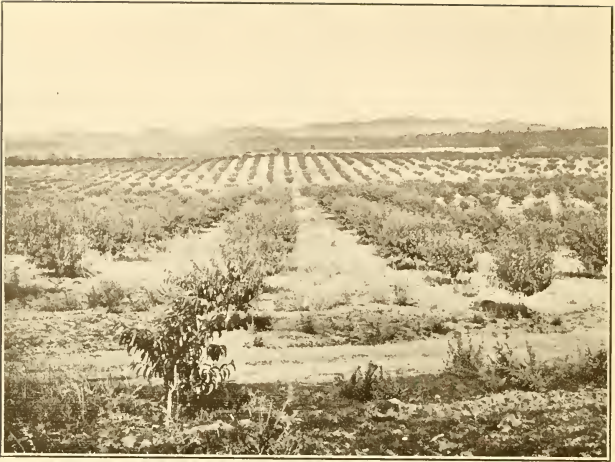
**PLUMS** are next in importance and are becoming more and more plentiful each year. All kinds of plums are raised to perfection, and the prices average close to \$1 per box at the point of shipment.

**GRAPES** have a standing next to plums in relative tonnage, wine and table varieties being extensively grown. Table grapes bring from 75 cents to \$1.75 per crate, and wine grapes from \$15 to \$25 per ton.

**PEARS** come next in relative importance, and are grown over a large area and do equally well in suitable soil in any locality, or at any elevation up to 3,500 feet, and bring a cash price of from \$1.00 to \$2 per box at point of shipment.

**CHERRIES** do particularly well in this section and command a cash price of from \$1 to \$1.50 per box of 10 pounds.

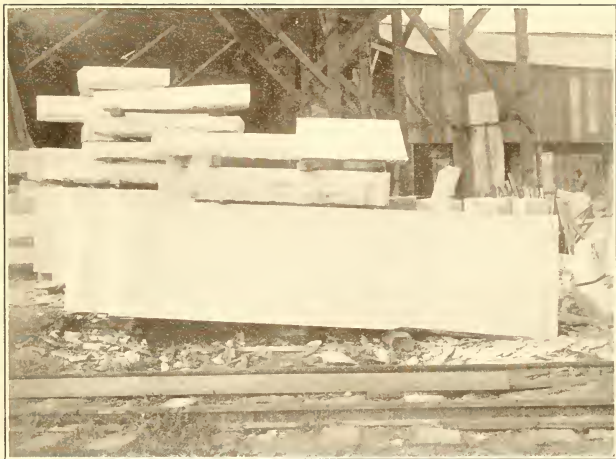




**Placer County Orchard Scene Near Loomis**

**BERRIES** of all descriptions do well in our soil, but the Placer "Dollar" strawberry is in a class all its own. It has an exceptionally fine flavor, and is of a firmness that will permit long distant shipment that no other variety will begin to stand. Strawberries are packed in crates containing 15 small baskets, the crate weighing about 17 pounds, and they bring from \$1 to \$2.50 per crate at the point of shipment. Loomis, Penryn and Newcastle ship about 75,000 crates per season.

**ORANGES:** There is a large acreage in navel oranges, mostly young trees, and more being planted from year to year, as the results obtained from older trees become known. The Whitney Estate Co., pioneers in orange growing in Placer county, have 150 acres planted to navel oranges, of which only 15 acres are mature trees. The mature trees have been bearing for several years and have conclusively proved the adaptability of this section for citrus production. During the season of 1910, eleven car loads of 380 boxes each, were harvested from 15 acres. The oranges sold in the eastern markets for \$2.34 a box above freight charges and commissions. It costs about 80 cents to pick and pack the fruit and load it on the cars, which left the grower a profit of \$1.50. The 15 acres produced 4,180 boxes, and the total profit was \$6,437.20, or \$429.15 per acre. Placer county oranges are from six weeks to two months earlier than those of



**Slabs of Granite from the Rocklin Quarries**

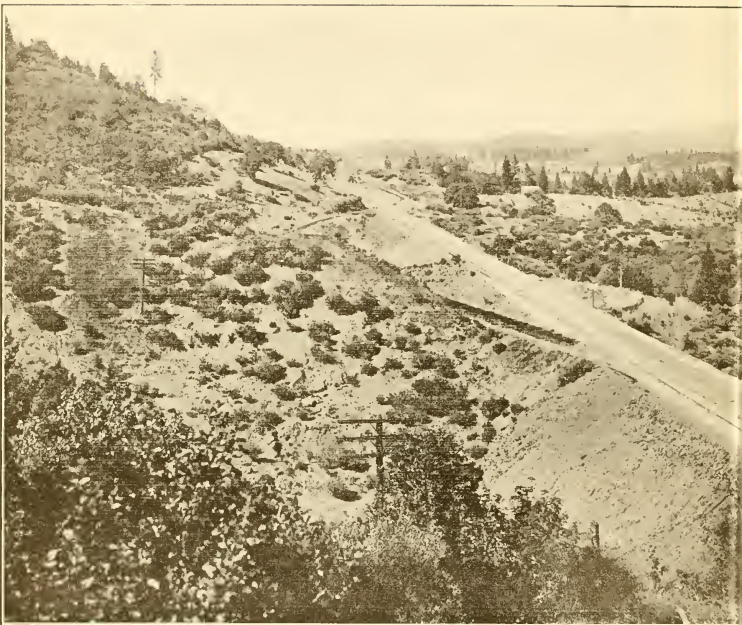
Southern California, an advantage which gives us the choice of an early market, and corresponding high prices.

At Rocklin, besides the fruit industry, granite quarrying is the principal industry; there being some twenty-seven quarries in operation, with possibilities for many more. The only State in the Union that produces granite as hard as Placer county is Vermont. The stone used in some of the finest public and private buildings west of the Rocky mountains came from the Rocklin quarries. The quarries at Rocklin employ some five or six hundred men, and the average wage of the stone-cutter is five dollars per day.

Carnation growing has proved a remunerative and easy pastime to several persons engaged in that business near Loomis. Here the florist is able to do in the open air what the eastern florist must do under glass. The expense of carnation raising is comparatively small and the profits are large. Loomis carnation plants are shipped all over the United States.

Adjoining the town of Loomis, is the government experimental station for fig raising, from which Capri figs for fertilization are shipped to all parts of the coast.

The prosperous condition of our people, the farmer and orchardist, as well as the commercial wealth of our community will make itself apparent to the most casual observer, and will compare favor-



**View Between**



**Roseville**

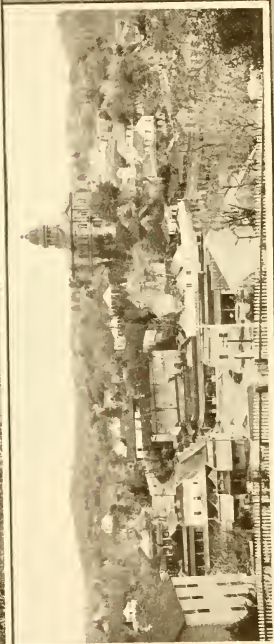
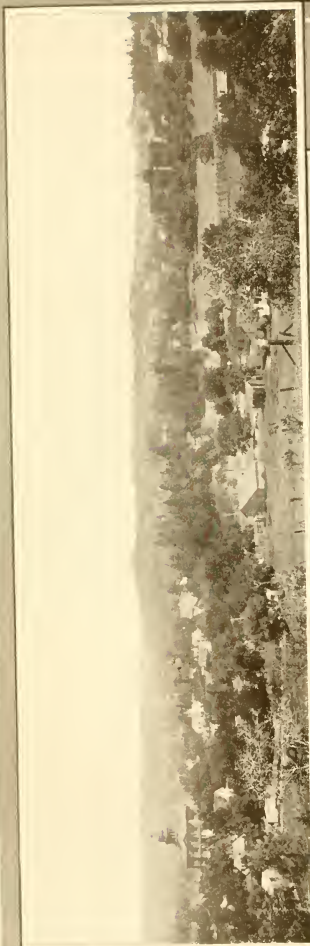


near and Colfax



er County





Two Views of Auburn, Placer County, California

ably with any section of the United States where prosperity depends upon the productiveness of the soil. Our people have good homes, drive good teams, or automobiles, not the result of inherited wealth, accumulated from other sources, but the direct revenue of their orchards, or farms. A rural telephone system practically covers the district, and brings the farmer in close touch with his neighbors, the towns and cities. Rural free delivery brings the mail and daily paper to the door; the schools and churches will compare favorably with those of any other rural section and the roads are inferior to none.

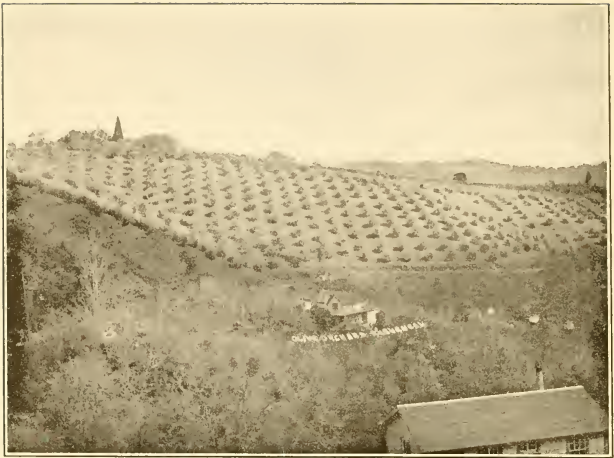
In the matter of railway transportation, particularly as applies to our principal products, Placer county enjoys the exceptional advantage of being on the most direct transcontinental railway route. Fruit loaded into refrigerator cars late in the afternoon, has but to pass from this county, and is well on its way to the Eastern market, while fruit from other sections is not yet out of the state.

## THE AUBURN DISTRICT

Auburn, the county seat and chief town of Placer County has a population of 2500, and is situated on the Ogden line of the Southern Pacific, 36 miles from the state capital. It is therefore most conveniently situated with reference to markets, and for communications in all directions, as will be clearly seen by looking on the map.

There are many towns in California which boast finer buildings and more elaborate improvements, but none which surpass in natural advantages for home building. Its altitude, fine air, mountain water and magnificent scenery, together with sightly and well drained building locations, make it unrivaled in this respect. From its many hills may be seen, stretching for hundreds of miles on the eastern horizon the snow-clad Sierras, and on the west the broad valley of the Sacramento, in which the river glistens like a thread of silver. Nearer by, in the foothill valleys, and climbing to the tops of the hills, the orchards and vineyards, pastures and fields of grain, make a panorama upon which the eye is never tired of dwelling.

Auburn, spread over its seven hills (or more nearly a dozen) climbing from the miners' Old Town, in the ravine, to the crest of the American canyon, two miles distant, is a true urbs in rus, a city in the country, and if not the "loveliest of the plain", is surely the loveliest city of the hills. Its beautiful court house, built entirely of Placer county stone and brick, and framed by tall eucalyptus, makes a picturesque acropolis, and behind, as seen from the Nevada street station, may be glimpsed the pretty little Methodist church, and on still higher ground the Catholic church, a fine new edifice of stone, replacing the building half a century old. Other churches are the Baptist, Congregational and Episcopal, the latter remarkable for its excellent choir.



Olive Grove on Aeolia Heights, Auburn, Placer County<sup>\*</sup>

The Placer County High School, occupying a commanding location on the south side, is perhaps the building of which Auburn has the most cause to be proud. With an exceptionally able faculty this school has a wide reputation. The cadets have a military instructor and are annually inspected by the adjutant general.

On another hill is the public library, with a fine collection of the latest literature and periodicals and a useful reference department. The library also has the advantages of the state library circulation, so that the students of Auburn can make use of the great historical and literary collections of the state.

Auburn is the business town and fitting-out place for the mines and lumber camps of the mountains, and is the junction point for Mountain Quarries, with its million-dollar plant and railroad. It has two banks, two postoffices, two newspapers, two hotels of high reputation and a variety of commercial houses and shops. In the office of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce may be seen in a large frame, the sixty-five ribbons and medals awarded to Placer county at the last State Fair, for excellence, or superiority in product of the field, orchard, mine and forest. And it may be added that no other county took half as many prizes as this county of Placer. It is a story told in blue and gold.

The soil of the Auburn country, extending from the beautiful





View Between Newcastle and Auburn

Long Valley on the south, to Christian Valley and Clipper Gap on the north, and westward to Edgewood. Rock Creek and Lone Star, is classed by the department of agriculture (which has selected it as one of the types of California soil) as Sierra red-clay loam, and is the result of centuries of decomposition of the granites, schists, volcanic and other rocks of the mountains above and is rich in lime, potash and other fertilizing material. Here oranges, pomelos and the tender lemon are successfully grown, as are the fig, pomegranate, apricot, almond, etc. The principal market fruits are peaches, plums, pears, cherries and small fruits. Poultry keeping and dairying are profitable occupations and the business is growing.

The water question is always an important one in California. The great reservoir of the foothills is located by nature in the canyons and forests of the high mountains, where the snow lies deep till late in the summer; therefore, such a thing as drought is unknown. From the Bear, American, and Yuba rivers, ditches fifty miles or more in length, conduct the water to the mines and the agricultural districts, insuring a never-failing supply of water for irrigation. The rainfall here averages thirty-five inches, mostly from September to May, and most farm crops are not given irrigation. The wells are from 30 to 50 feet deep, with the best of soft, cold water.

The average temperature for winter is 46.9 (the lowest for the



**Gold Dredger at Work Near Loomis, Placer County**

winter 1911-12 was 22 degrees); spring 57 degrees; summer, 74.5 degrees; and the fall, 64.3 degrees. Frost is seldom experienced before the middle of November, nor later than the first of March.

As regards health, the foothill region is noted for its salubrity and it has been said, and no doubt truly, that for the normal man and woman, it is harder to be sick here in Auburn, than to keep well.

This is not a "colony" nor a "rancho" but one of the oldest eastern settlements in California. The country has no hardpan or alkali, either in soil or people, and both are the kind that improve with long acquaintance.

### **THE COLFAX DISTRICT**

What is known as the Colfax district takes in that part of the county embracing Applegate, New England Mills, Lander, Colfax, Gold Run, Alta and Towles.

It is in this section that the Bartlett pear takes on that color which has made the red-cheeked Bartlett famous all over the country. It is here that the Grand Duke and Hungarian plums arrive at that state of perfection that makes them sought after by the connoisseurs of fruit, and it is here that the flame Tokay grapes form themselves into bunches that are unrivaled for color and sweetness. The apple, peach, olive, walnut, and chestnut all do well in this section.



Stamp Mill at the Peach Mine, Ophir, Placer County

There is something in the soil, something in the climate, something in the sunshiny days and cool nights, that goes to insure the raising of fruit that will carry well, look well and taste good. The iron in the soil seems especially beneficial for the production of high class fruit, while the rainfall varying from 35 to 79 inches per season, averaging, say 45 inches, insures plenty of moisture. It is an admitted fact that what is known as mountain fruit carries better and does not decay as fast as fruit that is grown in the valleys, along the river banks, or where it is heavily irrigated. Again, the underlying bed-rock of the Colfax district, allows the water to percolate, and permits the conservation of moisture by thorough cultivation.

Situated as the Colfax fruit section is, at an average elevation of about 2200 feet above the level of the sea, above the fog banks and among the pines, with an atmosphere that is pure; with water that flows through rocks fed by snows of the high mountains, not only are fruit growing conditions perfect, but health conditions also.

From a scenic point of view, this region is unexcelled. From the tops of its hills, views of the grand Sierra Nevadas, the Marysville Buttes and the Coast Range are to be obtained, and on very clear days, even hoary Mount Shasta raises its head in the distance. Looking in one direction peak after peak of the Sierras, clad in their mantle of eternal snow, rising ten thousand feet or more above the sea,



**Bartlett Pear Orchard in the Colfax District**

show themselves in all their grandeur. Looking in another direction the vast plains of the Sacramento valley, dotted with farms, hamlets and cities, make themselves clear, and in another direction, the dark Coast Ranges shuts out the view of the mighty ocean, that rolls and tosses itself beyond.

From the brow of Cape Horn, near Colfax, and Lovers' Leap, near Alta, the American river flows like a silvery thread two thousand feet below, while from the tops of other hills, Giant Gap shows how the mighty efforts of nature has rent the mountains aside, and given an opportunity for the snow fed streams to splash and dash themselves in their eager efforts to join the waters of the Sacramento river, irrigating the lands through which they flow, and then resting in peace, in the bosom of the mighty ocean. The water in the streams and the rainfall of the seasons give to this foothill section all the moisture that is needed for a thorough and profitable cultivation of the soil.

There are other means of making a livelihood beside that of farming and fruit raising. In days gone by, the gold mining industry was what made the Colfax section famous. Today it is the golden fruit raised in this section that brings it renown. In the past the hardy miner skimmed the ground and took from it the golden nuggets that were easily obtainable. In the future the scientific miner



Summer Scene in Foothills of Placer County

will delve into the earth, follow the channels of the old river beds, and work the seams of its gold bearing rock.

The waters of the American, Yuba and Bear rivers carry with them energy of unlimited power for electricity and other purposes, while the innumerable little streams, that are fed by the mountain snows, will some day be controlled and harnessed to serve the purpose of producing mechanical power, and irrigating the fertile lands through which they flow.

In days gone by the forests between Emigrant Gap and Truckee supplied a great portion of lumber that was used in Northern California in the building of its towns; its houses and its railroads. Many millions of feet were cut from the trees that grew between these places, and while large sections are now denuded of their lumber producing assets, there still remain miles and miles of trees, that only await the coming of transportation to make them accessible to the millman, and add their wealth to the untold millions that still remain on the ground.

The country from Applegate to that wonderful sheet of water known as Lake Tahoe, is looked upon as one of the most enjoyable regions for summer resorts that is to be found in California. Every year thousands of people resort to Applegate, Alta, Towles and Soda Springs, there to enjoy a stay in the pine forest; to breathe the pure





Walnut Trees on the Forest Hill Divide

balsam-laden air; to fish the gamey trout in the numerous streams and lakes and to hunt the fallow-deer in the valleys of the Sierras. During the summer months, when the residents of the valleys and plains or other parts of the state become enervated with heat, they go to these mountain resorts and after a few weeks sojourn, their cheeks again take on the ruddy hue of health, and they return to their homes, invigorated in body and mind.

Perhaps no more wonderful sight can greet the eye than that to be seen by the traveler, who, on his journey to California has just left the deserts of Nevada behind him, crossed the summit of the Sierra Nevadas, and then descends into the Sacramento valley. Each mile of the journey opens up a varying vista. First comes the view of everlasting snow, then glimpses of lakes and streams. Again one passes through mighty forests, and after leaving Towles, passing through Alta, Gold Run, Colfax, Lander, New England Mills and Applegate, a succession of vineyards and orchards meet the eye; some of them perched on the mountain sides and others partially hidden away in little valleys.

To the homeseeker opportunities are here offered as good as those to be found anywhere. To the sick here awaits the life-giving ozone of pure atmosphere, and to the business man, all those opportunities to be found in a progressive section. The day is rapidly



50-Year-Old Apple Tree on the Forest Hill Divide

approaching when all the hills and valleys will be cleared of their chaparral and covered with wealth-producing trees and vines. The Colfax fruit section invites the world to come and view its scenery, enjoy its climate and share in its prosperity.

### FOREST HILL DISTRICT

At the junction of the North and Middle Forks of the American river, about two miles east of the town of Auburn, and between these streams, begins that famous mountain spur, known as the Forest Hill Divide. It rises abruptly from the water's edge to a height of about fourteen hundred feet, a narrow ridge at first, but soon widens to a plateau several miles broad, with a gentle rolling surface, cut in places with deep, narrow, steep-walled canyons.

The contour of the country rises on a nearly uniform grade from the forks of the rivers, to about twenty miles east of the town of Forest Hill, and forty miles east of Auburn.

The divide is thirteen and one-half miles wide at Forest Hill. In the eastern part of the divide, the country rises rapidly in wild, picturesque grandeur to the summit of the Sierra Nevadas, and then among highland lakes, and snow-veiled peaks, through wild passes in the unexplored forest, to Lake Tahoe, the eastern border of Placer County.





View of Lake Tahoe, Placer County.

Although the Forest Hill Divide has 50,000 acres of farming land, it is principally known for its mineral wealth, its gold mines being exceedingly rich and extensive; in fact, the whole Divide, from the sides of the Sierras to the western border, is one vast placer mine.

The following is from the report of the U. S. Geological Survey, together with that of the State Mining Bureau: The total yield of gold of the placer mines of Iowa Hill and vicinity was \$10,000,000; from the mines of Forest Hill, within a radius of four miles, was \$35,750,000, of which \$10,000,000 was mined within one-half mile of the postoffice, \$1,500,000 being taken from a patch of ground on the Jersey claim, about 800 feet long and 300 feet wide. The more distant camps were equally rich, bringing the total amount of gold produced in placer mining on the Forest Hill Divide, to more than sixty million dollars. Data of the gold by quartz mines is not obtainable.

In addition to gold, other valuable minerals are found on the Forest Hill Divide, among them being graphite, chrome, magnetite, manganese and zinc. There is a large deposit also of magnesia being worked at Iowa Hill. Asbestos is found in large quantities at Giant Gap, also near the town of Iowa Hill. Rubies and garnets have also been found in some places.

Verde-antique marble, as well as other rare ornamental stones are found in many places in the western part of the district. For almost the whole length of the Divide clay beds, some of which will be of great economic value, overlay the gravel beds of the ancient rivers. This includes porcelain, plastic, potters and fire clay. There is also a volcanic ash exposed in Young America Canyon that is said to make an excellent fertilizer. In the western part of the Divide is a large body of the purest limestone. The rhyolite, abundant near Forest Hill, makes a first class building stone.

The inducements for farming on the Forest Hill Divide, and in all the foothill regions of eastern Placer county, are many. The settler in the foothills of the Sierras will find the most favorable conditions for a man of small means, not to be surpassed anywhere in the west.

A railroad is now projected up the Divide, and may soon be extended to Forest Hill.

Here is land, water, timber and climate awaiting the settler. Nothing more is wanted except population to make this a paradise. The climate varies with the altitude, from west to east; mild in the western and central part; the eastern part gives less heat in summer, with deep snows in winter. The temperature seldom falls below zero at coldest parts.

The soil is for the most part a lava loam, of great fertility, in many places 50 feet deep, especially adapted to fruit, nuts and vines.

Although not recommended as a citrus belt, an orange and lemon orchard at American Bar, ten miles east of Forest Hill, has been bearing fruit for nearly 40 years. Another orange orchard bore fruit for many years, until the ground was mined away. There are orange trees growing wild on the slopes of the Mayflower Canyon.

This is an ideal apple, pear, prune and cherry country, and peaches succeed in places; currants and berries of all kinds grow here to perfection. Grapes of all the different varieties are equal to any that are grown in California.

Figs have been grown all over the divide since the pioneer days; some of the largest fig trees in California can be seen here. The prunes grown here are large, firm and sweet and the trees bear heavily.

English walnuts, almonds, chestnuts, pecans and filberts have been grown here since the first settlements were made, and some of the largest and oldest nut trees on this coast, can be seen on the Spring Garden ranch, a few miles from Forest Hill.

Palm trees will grow anywhere below an altitude of 2,200 feet. Tobacco of good quality has been grown here for years. Hops, claimed to be the equal of the famous Bohemian, can be grown anywhere. Potatoes and all kinds of vegetables thrive; alfalfa and clover do well, with some irrigation. Wheat, oats and barley grow well.

There is timber enough for fuel and farm use on all the land, but



The Tavern, Lake Tahoe, Placer County

on a great part of the level land, the large trees have been cut down for use in the mines.

There are several towns on the Divide. Forest Hill, altitude 3,200 feet, on the crest of the ridge, overlooking the American river, nearly half a mile below, and commanding a fine view of the snow-covered Sierras, surrounded with its forests of pine and oak, with wide streets, and beautiful homes, it is one of the prettiest towns in California.

There are no fogs, and the climate is equable, the cold air being drawn into the canyons at night, and the warm air from the valley comes up the plateau, maintaining a constant circulation. Malaria is never known in this region.

Oleanders, and many other semi-tropical shrubs grow without care in many of the gardens. The soil is especially fine for rose culture.

Forest Hill maintains two fine schools, churches, several fraternal societies, five stores, two large hotels, some fine halls, telephone, electric light, city water and all the appurtenances of a modern town. Owing to the contour of the country, all roads from the valley, and the eastern part of the divide, center at Forest Hill, which is the natural commercial center of the divide.

Michigan Bluff, eight miles east of Forest Hill, is a famous mining town, overlooking the American river, with fine homes, gardens



View of Lake Tahoe, Placer County

and orchards, surrounded by good land, forests and mines; it contains the usual appurtenances of a good American town.

Iowa Hill, famous for its gold mines, is situated in the center of some of the oldest gold-producing mines in California. The finest of soil surrounds it on every side; the climate is one of the best in the state, and the many fruit trees, planted by the miners in the early days, are witnesses to the unequal productiveness of its deep lava soil.

Yankee Jims, three miles from Forest Hill, once a prosperous mining town, is now an agricultural district.

Regarding the land on the Forest Hill Divide, there are several thousand acres of open public land, suitable for farming, and also, a great deal of mining land. The C. P. R. R. company owns some land and large tracts of land are owned by non-residents. Much of this land can be bought cheap at present, but the advent of the railroad will make it one of the most valuable farming sections in California.

The mining methods include drift, river, placer and quartz, and Placer's drift mines are among the largest in the world. In the mountains of Placer county the scenery is magnificent. From the mountain peaks of the rugged Sierras can be obtained views as grand and awe-inspiring as can be seen in the world-famed Alps. Canyon after canyon, nesting on their bosoms limpid lakes, fed by myriad streams and sparkling waterfalls and fringed by cons-old pines, greet the eye on

every side. In these regions the angler's heaven is to be found, for in every stream and lake, trout abound. Here the huntsman will find grouse, mountain quail, doves, wild pigeons, and deer, and those who wish to test their skill and courage against large game, can do so with the bear and California lion.

On the eastern end of Placer is Lake Tahoe, famed the world over. A little inland sea, thirteen miles in width and twenty-three in length, 6,240 feet above sea level and 2,000 feet in depth; around it towering mountains, whose highest peaks have an elevation of 11,120 feet; a lake whose color changes from day to day and from hour to hour, sometimes the hue of the jade; again of the purple; again when the breezes gently ripple the surface, of silvery gray. One on watch for the glow of the dawn along the Nevada shore, will ever remember it; there is a faint shifting of the purple shades of night, a slaty gray light across the water, through which is dimly seen the outline of the mountains upon the eastern side; then there is a soft golden tinge where the sky and the mountains meet; then suddenly great rays of light shoot up from under the line of the horizon, illuminating the snows upon the peaks, and touching with pink the lower sides of the clouds. In a few minutes more the whole heavens are aflame; the Nevada shore is crimson; the snow-fields upon the summit of Mount Tallac glisten as though they were fields of gold; the middle height of the mountain is arrayed in saffron light, across which floats yellow wisps of clouds; the lower slopes are filled with purple shadows, which deepen every moment; the great trees along the shore seem to grow upwards and downwards, and the rock promontories hang suspended between the skies and the abyss.

It is California's great mountain resting place. Here thousands go each year, from June to October, to the many lake resorts to enjoy the boating and fishing, or along the banks of the rushing streams, where gamey fish dart from pool to pool; find recreation and enjoyment and gain in health and strength.



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